Improving facilities in jails in the country

1105. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1957 given in the Rajya Sabha on 14th March, 2001 and state:

(a) whether Government propose to prepare a scheme for improving the physical facilities in the jails in the country and implement it;

(b) whether the State Governments have responded to the letter written by the Central Government to take urgent necessary steps for expeditious disposal of cases of undertrials who are languishing in various jails in the country; and

(c) if so, the details of action taken by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) 'Prisons' is a State subject as per the Constitution and the responsibility for construction, maintenance and management of jails lies with the State Governments. However, Central Government has been providing financial assistance to the State Governments to supplement their efforts at improving the condition of prisons and prisoners.

(b) and (c) As per the information made available by the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Goa, Rajasthan and West Bengal, their respective High Courts have taken action for tackling over-crowding in jails and early disposal of long pending trial cases.